



# NEWS BULLETIN

## SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT of CIVIL SERVICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

PO Box 6100  
Building 158 - North County Complex  
Hauppauge, New York 11788-0099  
(631) 853-4402

STEVEN BELLONE  
Suffolk County Executive

ALAN SCHNEIDER  
Personnel Director

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**F**or **Y**our **I**nformation from... **SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Edward Webber, Acting Commissioner

### SOCIAL HOST LAW

Proms, graduation parties and summer festivities are all on the near horizon. Make these events memorable ones. Take time to review the **Social Host Law** so when you look back on these special occasions, you can smile.

**What is the Social Host Law?** The primary purpose of the Social Host Law is to deter underage drinking parties or gatherings where adults knowingly allow minors to drink alcohol or alcoholic beverages. The law applies to any adult (including parents) who are over the age of 18 and knowingly allow consumption of alcohol by minors (any person under the age of 21).

**Why is this law needed?** This law provides a legal basis for holding adults responsible for knowingly allowing parties for individuals under the age of 21 to occur at a place under their control, **whether or not** they provide the alcohol.

### Who can be charged?

- Anyone who is over the age of 18; and
- Owns, rents or otherwise controls a private residence; or similar location (e.g. campsites, hotel rooms, yards, etc.); and
- Knowingly allows the consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages by any minor on such premises; or
- Fails to take reasonable corrective action upon learning of the consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages by any minor on such premises.

### What is "Reasonable Corrective Action?"

Reasonable corrective actions shall include, but are not limited to:

- Making a prompt demand that the minor(s) stop drinking the alcoholic beverage or leave the premises; and
- If the minor refuses to comply with the request, the adult must promptly report the underage drinking to:
  - Local law enforcement; or
  - Any other person with greater degree of authority over the minor (e.g. the minor's parents or guardians, etc.)

### What are the penalties?

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: \$500

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: \$1,000 and/or up to a year in jail

For information on other laws regarding underage persons...go to the Suffolk County Police web page, [www.suffolkcountyny.gov/police](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/police).



*The Suffolk County Health Department's Cancer Awareness Task Force reminds you to protect your skin from the sun's harmful Ultraviolet (UV) rays all year round.*